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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Letter dated 2 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey to you a statement issued by the Ministry for External Relations on the attack on 27 July 2000 by the rebel movement (SPLA) on the United Nations personnel and relief agencies involved in the operation of relief assistance in southern Sudan in continuous violation of the declared ceasefire (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 20 (b).

(*Signed*) Mubarak **Rahmtalla**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 2 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Statement by the Ministry of External Relations on the rebel movement's attack on a United Nations boat

1. Once again, the Sudanese Government is alerting the international community to the repeated attacks by the rebel movement on United Nations personnel and humanitarian relief workers, as well as its continuous violations of the declared ceasefire.

2. In addition to its poor record in this area, on Thursday, 27 July 2000 the rebel movement attacked a United Nations boat as it was travelling from Malakal to the Nagdiar area on the river Sobat. As a result of the attack, one of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) personnel sustained injuries.

3. The protocols signed at Oslo, Geneva and Rome in 1998 and 1999 between the rebel movement and the Sudanese Government under the auspices of the United Nations allow United Nations organizations to operate boats in the area where the attack occurred and guarantee the safety and security of their personnel for the purpose of delivering humanitarian assistance to the needy. The rebel movement's attack is therefore a flagrant violation of its prior commitments and an unwarranted provocation.

4. The Sudanese Government once again calls upon the international community to condemn unequivocally the rebel movement's irresponsible behaviour and to exert pressure on it to respect the protocols it has signed and to allow safe passage of humanitarian assistance to the needy in order to avoid the recurrence of the tragedy of 1998, when thousands of innocent persons met their death as a result of the famine caused when the rebel movement prevented the delivery of humanitarian assistance to them.

Date: 29 July 2000